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Senator Alan Cranston

8 JUL 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY.

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Thank you for your letter of 23 June 1970 enclosing a newspaper article which makes a number of serious allegations concerning the Central Intelligence Agency.

As you may know, CIA does not publicly comment on reports concerning its activities. On the assumption that it would be of interest to you, I am enclosing a pamphlet which spells out the statutes from which this policy flows.

CIA is an operating, not a policy making, agency. The statute which established CIA specifically provides that its duties be carried out under the direction of the National Security Council. The Council is chaired by the President and the Secretaries of State and Defense are included in its membership. Beyond this, the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board is charged by the President to conduct a continuous review of CIA's activities. This Board is composed of eminent men from private life as you can see from the enclosed listing.

Four separate subcommittees in the Congress, two in each house, exercise oversight of CIA much as the activities of any other executive agency are reviewed by other congressional committees.

Although public disclosure of CIA's activities may not be possible, I think your concern may somewhat be abated by the fact that it is subject to close scrutiny and operates under the direction and control of those elected and appointed officials who are entrusted with the policy making responsibilities of our government.

I appreciate your writing to me concerning this matter.